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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 21st and 30th meetings, on 5 and 30 November 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.21 and 30).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.12 and A/C.2/62/L.38

2. At the 21st meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/62/L.12), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000, its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002, 58/243 of 23 December 2003, 59/234 of 22 December 2004, 60/197 of 22 December 2005 and 61/201 of 20 December 2006 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,
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> "*Recalling also* the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the acknowledgement that the

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global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but ditferentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

"*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

"*Recalling* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003, the outcome of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Buenos Aires from 6 to 18 December 2004, the outcome of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 10 December 2005, and the outcome of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties and the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Nairobi from 6 to 17 November 2006,

"*Reaffirming* the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative effects of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects,

"*Noting* that one hundred and ninety-one States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

"*Noting also* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and seventy-five ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

"*Noting further* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries, and noting the significance of the release of the fourth assessment report,

"*Noting with appreciation* the convening of the high-level thematic debate by the President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, from 31 July to 2 August 2007, as well as the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene the high-level event on climate change on 24 September 2007,

"*Reaffirming its commitment* to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

"1. *Stresses* that the seriousness of climate change calls for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the Framework Convention;

"2. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005 and strongly urges the States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

"3. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention and the first and second sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

"4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Bali from 3 to 14 December 2007, and looks forward to a successful outcome;

"5. *Recognizes* that climate change poses serious risks and challenges to all countries, particularly to developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in Africa and disaster-prone developing countries, demands urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and in this regard, urges all countries to fully implement their commitments under the Convention framework, to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels, and to enhance international cooperation in the framework of the Convention;

"6. *Also recognizes* the need to ensure financial and technical resources, as well as capacity-building, access to and transfer of technologies, to assist those developing countries adversely affected by climate change;

"7. *Reaffirms* that efforts to address climate change in a manner that enhances and ensures the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the developing countries and the universal elimination of poverty should promote the integration of all three components of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner;

"8. *Calls upon* the donor community to fulfil the commitments made during the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and urges the developed countries to allocate additional financial resources to the Global Environment Facility at its fifth replenishment;

"9. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Framework Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

"11. *Endorses* the continuation of the institutional linkage between the secretariat of the Framework Convention and the United Nations until such time as a review is deemed necessary by the Conference of the Parties or the General Assembly;

"12. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"13. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conference of the Parties;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At its 30th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/62/L.38), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.12.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the ninth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, and the Vice-Chairperson, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), orally corrected the twelfth preambular paragraph (see A/C.2/62/SR.30).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee took action on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38 as follows:

(a) The Committee retained operative paragraph 11 by a recorded vote of 160 to 2. The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Japan, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

(b) The Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38 as a whole, as orally corrected (see para. 10).

7. Before the vote on operative paragraph 11, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Japan; a statement after the vote was made by the representative of Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; Iceland and Norway; and Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (see A/C.2/62/SR.30).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution as a whole, a statement was made by the representative of Belarus (see A/C.2/62/SR.30).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.38, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.12 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

[1] Subsequently, the representatives of Afghanistan and Kenya indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of retaining the paragraph.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002, 58/243 of 23 December 2003, 59/234 of 22 December 2004, 60/197 of 22 December 2005 and 61/201 of 20 December 2006 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,[3]

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,[6] the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003,[7] the outcome of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Buenos Aires from 6 to 18 December 2004,[8] the outcome of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 10 December 2005,[9] and

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] Ibid., para. 23.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.8.

[7] FCCC/CP/2003/6/Add.1 and 2.

[8] FCCC/CP/2004/10/Add.1 and 2.

[9] FCCC/CP/2005/5/Add.1.

the outcome of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties and the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Nairobi from 6 to 17 November 2006,[10]

Reaffirming the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[11] the Mauritius Declaration[12] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[13]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[14]

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative effects of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects,

Noting that, to date, there are one hundred and ninety-two parties to the Convention, including one hundred and ninety-one States and one regional economic integration organization,

Noting also that, currently, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[15] has attracted one hundred and seventy-six ratifications, accessions, acceptances or approvals, including from 38 parties included in annex I to the Convention,

Noting further the amendment to annex B to the Kyoto Protocol,[16]

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

Noting also the significance of the scientific findings of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which contribute positively to the discussions under the Convention and the understanding of the phenomenon of climate change, including its impacts and risks,

Noting with appreciation the initiative of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, in having convened the informal thematic debate on "Climate change as a global challenge" from 31 July to 2 August 2007,

Noting also with appreciation the initiative of the Secretary-General in having convened the informal high-level event entitled "The future in our hands: addressing the leadership challenge of climate change" on 24 September 2007, aimed at

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[10] FCCC/CP/2006/5 and Add.1.

[11] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[12] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[13] Ibid., annex II.

[14] See resolution 60/1.

[15] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[16] FCCC/KP/CMP/2006/10/Add.1, decision 10/CMP.2.

providing impetus and political support to the Convention and raising awareness of the global challenge of climate change,

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General[17] transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[18]

1. *Stresses* the seriousness of climate change, and calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] through the implementation of its provisions;

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[15] welcome the entry into force of the Protocol on 16 February 2005, and strongly urges States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the eleventh[9] and twelfth[10] sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention and the first[9] and second[10] sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Bali from 3 to 14 December 2007, and looks forward to a successful outcome, including the advancement of negotiations on the way forward;

5. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Poland to host the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Poznań from 1 to 12 December 2008;

6. *Recognizes* that climate change poses serious risks and challenges to all countries, particularly to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, including those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and calls upon States to take urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and, in this regard, urges all countries to fully implement their commitments under the Framework Convention, to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels, and to enhance international cooperation in the framework of the Convention;

7. *Also recognizes* the need to provide financial and technical resources, as well as capacity-building and access to and transfer of technology, to assist those developing countries adversely affected by climate change;

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[17] A/62/276.

[18] Ibid., annex I.

8. *Reaffirms* that efforts to address climate change in a manner that enhances the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the developing countries and the eradication of poverty should be carried out through promoting the integration of the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to fulfil the commitments made during the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

10. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Framework Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[19] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[20] and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

12. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

13. *Invites* the secretariat of the Framework Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

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[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[20] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.